

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Ordinance amending Ordinance 6493, adopted December 2, 2019, as previously amended, to increase the General Fund 2019-2020 biennial appropriation by \$1,102,156 for CARES Mobile Integrated Health and Basic Life Services.

Jay Hagen, Fire Chief, 452-6892
Dave Beste, Battalion Chief, 452-6982
Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Ordinance increases General Fund 2019-2020 biennial appropriation and authorizes up to 7.5 positions in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program to support CARES Mobile Integrated Health and Basic Life Services. Bellevue is expected to receive revenue annually from the EMS levy that will off-set the costs in this budget amendment.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6509

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The planning process for the 2020-2025 EMS Levy began with the first meeting of the EMS Levy Advisory Task Force in January 2018. The all-inclusive process brought together regional leaders, decision-makers, and stakeholders to assess the needs of the system and develop recommendations to direct the system into the future. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represented the City of Bellevue on the EMS Advisory Task Force.

All representatives of stakeholder agencies provided detailed programmatic review and financial analysis associated with the EMS Levy. This review was done through four subcommittees: Advanced Life Support (ALS), Basic Life Support (BLS), Finance and Regional Services. Bellevue Fire Department staff participated on all subcommittees. Director of Intergovernmental Relations Joyce Nichols, Battalion Chief Dave Beste and Fiscal Manager Krystal Hackmeister served on the Subcommittees.

BLS services are provided by local Fire Department Firefighter/EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) which include emergency medical treatment such as care for victims of trauma, and may include wound care, splinting, extrication from vehicles, cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and cardiac defibrillation. All Bellevue Firefighters are trained as EMTs.

The City Council adopted Resolution No. 9612, endorsing the placement of the county-wide ballot proposition for funding EMS on the November 2019 County ballot. On November 5, 2019, the King County voters overwhelmingly approved a six year levy of \$0.265 per \$1,000 assessed value (AV), thus providing funding for 2020 through 2025. The Levy allows for the continuation of standardized ALS care throughout the County and offsets some of the local costs associated with providing BLS services.

In preparation for the November 2019 Countywide EMS Levy vote, the King County EMS Steering Committee updated the six year EMS financial plan to ensure that 100 percent of the ALS expenditures

would continue to be covered by levy funding. In addition, as part of the levy planning process, King County also approved fiscal policies to include sufficient reserves to mitigate unforeseen financial risk; adapting existing reserve policies to meet King County financial policies; and ensuring additional protection and flexibility to meet emerging needs.

The Bellevue Fire Department will receive an increase of \$1.1 million in funds above what was previously allocated. During the January 21, 2020 City Council meeting, the Council approved moving forward with adding 4.5 new revenue backed FTE positions and converting 3 existing LTE positions to FTE status. All requested positions are revenue-backed and supported for the life of the levy, through 2025. This increase of 7.5 FTE's will support the CARES Mobile Integrated Health Unit (5.5 FTE's, 2.5 new and 3.0 conversions) and Basic Life Services (2.0 FTE's) for levy supported programs.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

City Financial Policy: Pursuant to RCW 35A.34.200(d), the expenditures in the final budget shall constitute the City's appropriations for the fiscal biennium. Under provisions of State law and the City's operating procedures, the operating budget may be amended by an ordinance that amends the original budget and states the sources of funding for incremental appropriations.

City Contracting Policies: Bellevue City Code 4.28.040A: Council approval is required for contracts greater than \$90,000.

Fiscal Impact

This action increases the General Fund 2019-2020 biennial appropriation by \$1,102,156 and authorizes up to 7.5 FTEs to support the CARES Mobile Integrated Health Unit (5.5 FTEs, 2.5 new and 3.0 LTE to FTE conversions) and Basic Life Services (2.0 FTEs). Bellevue is expected to receive revenue annually from the EMS levy that will off-set the costs in this budget amendment. The amount of funding received from the EMS levy is increased annually.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Ordinance amending Ordinance 6493, adopted December 2, 2019, as previously amended, to increase the General Fund 2019-2020 biennial appropriation by \$1,102,156 for CARES Mobile Integrated Health and Basic Life Services.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

Proposed Ordinance No. 6509

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

ALS and BLS Agreements from King County Public Health